

PERAC PENSION NEWSFLASH

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PERAC

Five Middlesex Avenue
Suite 304
Somerville, MA 02145
ph 617 666 4446
fax 617 628 4002
tty 617 591 8917
web www.mass.gov/perac

Philip Y. Brown, Esq.
Chairman

The Honorable
Suzanne M. Bump
Auditor of the
Commonwealth
Vice Chairman

Kate Fitzpatrick
*Town Manager
Needham*

Elizabeth Fontaine
*Asst. Executive Director
MA Educational Financing
Authority (MEFA)*

James M. Machado
*Sergeant, Fall River Police
Department*

Robert B. McCarthy
*President Emeritus of the
Professional Firefighters of
Massachusetts*

Joseph E. Connarton
Executive Director

For further information:

Michael J. DeVito
Editor
ph 617 666 4446 x.971

Commissioner Kate Fitzpatrick Joins the Commission

Auditor of the Commonwealth Suzanne Bump Administers the Oath of Office



PERAC Commissioner Kate Fitzpatrick (L) is sworn-in by PERAC's Vice Chair and Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump (R)

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014 The Honorable Suzanne Bump, Auditor of the Commonwealth and Vice Chair of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) administered the oath of office as a PERAC Commissioner to Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager of Needham, Massachusetts. Ms. Fitzpatrick was appointed by Auditor Bump to the

PERAC Commission seat designated in statute as an Auditor's appointment for a "representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association". She replaces long-time PERAC Commissioner Donald Marquis, former Town Manager of the Town of Arlington in this seat.

Kate Fitzpatrick was appointed as the first Town Manager after a change in government for the Town of Needham in May 2005. She has served the community since 1990 as Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, and Personnel Director. Prior to serving in Needham, Ms. Fitzpatrick worked in a variety of human resource roles for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Department of Youth Services and the Department of Personnel Administration.

Ms. Fitzpatrick is an active member of the International City Management Association. She currently is the immediate past President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association – the State's non-partisan league of cities and towns. She has served on the Local Government Advisory Committee, and was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve as the municipal representative on the Special Commission to Study the Contributory Retirement System.

Ms. Fitzpatrick received a Bachelor's Degree in History from the College of the Holy Cross in 1984, and an MBA, with a concentration in Public Management, from Boston University in 1993. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager.



Continued on page 2

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Auditor Bump praised Commissioner Fitzpatrick's experience in the public sector in Massachusetts:

Kate Fitzpatrick comes to the Commission with a wealth of experience in the Massachusetts public sector. As a Town Manager, she is keenly aware of the challenges facing municipalities in the area of employee pension funding. In addition, Kate's well-rounded background makes her uniquely qualified to act as a PERAC Commissioner – since PERAC's decisions impact the full spectrum of Massachusetts public employees – state, teachers and municipal employees. Kate also had a major role in the last comprehensive study of the Massachusetts Contributory Retirement Systems – recommendations from which were included in recent pension reform legislation enacted by the General Court and signed by Governor Deval Patrick. There is no question that Kate will be a great asset to the Commission. I know that Chairman Philip Brown and the other Commissioners join with me in welcoming Kate Fitzpatrick to the Commission.

PERAC's Executive Director Joseph E. Connarton also welcomed the new Commissioner:

We are certainly pleased that our Vice Chair, State Auditor Suzanne Bump has appointed Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick to the Massachusetts Municipal Association's designated seat on the Commission. Both my staff and I have worked with Kate in the past on several occasions - not the least of which was the 2009 major Special Commission on the Study of the Massachusetts Contributory Retirement Systems. Kate had a very active role on this Commission having chaired one of its working Subcommittees. Her widespread knowledge of the pension system and the many challenging issues that it faces will make her an immediate and significant contributor to the Commission's deliberations. I know that the entire staff joins me in welcoming Commissioner Fitzpatrick to the Commission and we look forward to working with her to meet all of Massachusetts' future pension-related challenges.



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